

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-13 and 15-16 are pending in the application, claims 1, 7, 9 and 11 having been amended herein.

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure. The Specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw his objection to the disclosure.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-13, 15 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,055,313) in view of Gay et al.. Applicant respectfully traverses this statement.

Grey et al. discloses that a non-woven fibrous sheet is split along its plane during the processing of the sheet, thus resulting in two different webs and consequently in two separate wound rolls after the point of slitting. This method may only applied to relatively thick sheets and low production speeds, because otherwise the web would easily break. Furthermore, to achieve the advantages described in the Grey patent, the web needs impregnation treatment. In modern papermaking technology the production speeds are high and the grammages can be fairly low, both factors contradicting the idea presented in the Gram patent. Thus, the Gram patent teaches away from the present invention, because it presents a solution that can not be applied in the field of the present invention.

Yamaguchi discloses a roll slitting and rewinding machine. In this kind of arrangement,

where several smaller rolls are simultaneously produced from a larger reel by slitting a wider web unwound from the reel into a plurality of narrower webs, is not in the scope of Applicant's present invention. In Applicant's present claims, the web to be wound in sequential winding stations is defined as a "full-width paper web".

In Applicant's claim 1, it is clearly mentioned that, although there is a plurality of first reel spools and a plurality of second reel spools, the first reeling and (after the subsequent unwinding) the following reeling of a full-width web takes place around one of said plurality of first reel spools and around one of said plurality of second reel spools, respectively. Thus, in the present invention, the process of using several reel spools is serial rather than parallel (simultaneous).

In the Yamaguchi patent, column 2, lines 16 to 19 discloses "strips 11 slitted by a slitting mechanism," which are "rewound into a separate rewinding rolls 12 with adjacent slitted strips" The origin of the strips is a full-width web. Thus, the strips are no longer a full-width web but narrower parts of the full-width web. This is explained in column 1, lines 12 to 15 of the Yamaguchi patent. By the words in this passage of the '313 patent (emphasis added) "... **a wide** and long continuous sheet of paper or film is slitted and the **resulting slitted strips** are rewound ...". Thus, there is **a** wide sheet of paper which results in slitted strips. The slitted strips are **adjacent** (col. 2, line 18). Logically this implies that one singular sheet results simultaneously in plural adjacent strips. The '313 patent deals with a typical slitter-winder where a full-width web is slitted into a plurality of narrower strips which are subsequently and simultaneously rewound into a plurality of rolls termed "customer rolls". To illustrate this crucial difference, the device designated "AL" in the

Figs. 1 and 3 of the present application could be the slitter-winder of the '313 patent. The function of this unwinding device AL is described on page 5, lines 13 to 16 of the present application. These rolls are shipped from the paper mill to the customers and they are not treated further, except for the package and transport.

Also, the references cannot be combined. The rolls as disclosed in Yamaguchi et al are final products sent to the customers, and can not be further finished. Therefore, they cannot be further finished by the of Gray.

Therefore, the Gray and Yamaguchi, alone or in combination, do not obviate Applicant's invention as defined by the amended claims. Therefore the claims are allowable and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments it is submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn and the present application should now be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments it is submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been overcome and should be removed and the present application should now be in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should any changes to the claims and/or specification be deemed necessary to place the

Appl. No. 09/763,745
Amdt. After Final Rejection Dated December 8, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 7, 2003

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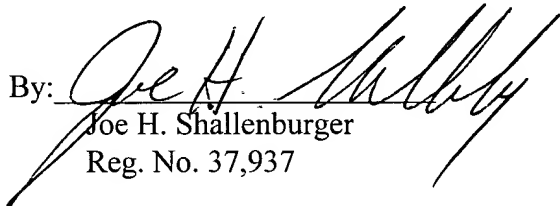
application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to discuss the same.

This Amendment is accompanied by a petition for a two-month extension of time together with the requisite fee. In the event that any other fee is required for the entry of this Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby specifically authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0518 in the name of Steinberg & Raskin, P.C.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
STEINBERG & RASKIN, P.C.

By:


Joe H. Shallenburger
Reg. No. 37,937

Steinberg & Raskin, P.C.
1140 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
(212) 768-3800